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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/929,463	08/14/2001	Francois Bourdoncle	6633-83488	9060

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EXAMINER

VEILLARD, JACQUES

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2165

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/929,463

Applicant(s)

BOURDONCLE ET AL.

Examiner

Jacques Veillard

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the Applicant's amendment filed on 11/16/2005.
2. Claims 1, 3-8, 15, 17-22, 28, 31, 33-38 have been amended.
3. Claims 1-42 are pending and presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 15, 28, and 31 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wical (U. S. Pat No. (6,038,560) in view of Sanu et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 6,145,003) and Beall et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 6,321,224).

As per claims 1 and 15, Wical discloses a concept knowledge base search and retrieval system (See Wical Title, Abstract; col.1, lines 5-21). In particular, Wical discloses the claimed limitations of: providing a database of entries, at least part of said entries being mapped to a set of categories, at least part of said entries being associated with key phrases by providing a

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knowledge base includes a plurality of categories and terminology (See Wical Abstract, col.2, lines 54-67; col.4, lines 29-44; col.5, lines 21-26; col.13, lines 45-67; col.17, lines 39-61, and col.18, lines 33-46); in response to a first query of a user with a set of search terms selecting among said set of categories mapped at least one category mapped to the entries returned by said query (Wical Abstract; col.2, line 46 through col.3, line 16; Fig.11b; col.10, line 63 through col.11, line 12; col.14, lines 37-55; col.16, lines 5-21, and col.17, lines 39-61); dynamically extracting the key phrases associated to the entries returned by said query (See Wical Figs.11A-1, 11A-2, col.25, lines 26-33); dynamically selecting a subset of said extracting key phrases (See Wical Fig.11B, col.25, lines 34-40); displaying to the user said selected categories and said selected key phrases (See Wical col.2, lines 24-53; Figs. 10A, 10B, 11A, 11B, 12, col.3, lines 50-62; col.9, lines 21-32, and col.16, line 59 through col.17, 2); and in response to the user, activating one of said displayed categories or said displayed key phrases starting a second query(See Wical Fig.11B).

It is noted, however, Wical does not specifically teach refining the first query to a subset of the entries returned by said first query. On the hand, Beall et al. achieved this claimed features by providing a database search, retrieval and classification with software for efficiently selecting items from a database (See Beall et al. Title and Abstract) including refining the first query to a subset of the entries returned by said first query (See Beall et al. Abstract lines 7-15, col.3, lines 35-58, Fig.5, col.7, lines 42-58 and col.6, lines 26-58).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the Applicant's invention to modify the concept knowledge base search and retrieval system of Wical by incorporating the refining search methodology mechanism taught by Beall et al. The

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motivation being to have enhanced the system of Wical by allowing it to perform search more efficiently; thus providing an intuitive, easy-to-use, icon-based interface that enables users to refine a first query by narrowing the search quickly and efficiently (Beall et al. Abstract lines 17-21 and col.6, lines 47-49).

The combination of Wical and Reall et al, as modified, does not specifically disclose to select in addition to a list of entries returned by the query. Sanu et al., on the other hand, achieved this feature by providing a method of web crawling utilizing address mapping (See Sanu et al. Title and Abstract) includes a list of entries returned by the query (See Sanu et al. col.5, lines 51-65, and col.6, lines 54-56)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the Applicant's invention to modify the combination teachings of Wical and Reall et al. by the web crawling method taught by Sanu et al. provide a search engine that returns a list of documents wherein the users may then examine the list to select or retrieve one or more categories, which permit the system of Wical and Reall et al. more efficient when doing a search query.

As per claims 28, and 31, the claims have substantially the same limitations as claims 1 and 15. These limitations have already been addressed in the discussion of claims 1 and 15 above. Therefore, they are rejected in similar grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claims 1 and 15.

As per claims 2, 16, and 32, the combination of Wical, Beall et al. and Sanu et al., as modified, teaches the claimed invention, wherein the categories are organized in a tree or directed acyclic graph structure (See Wical col.13, line 56 through col.14, line 55).

As per claims 3, 17, and 33, the combination of Ron Weiss, Beall et al. and Sanu et al., as modified, discloses the claimed invention, wherein the keyword is a sequence of words or a sequence of stemmed words (See Beall et al. col.3, lines 13-20, and col.5, lines 43-45).

. As per claims 4, 18, and 34, the combination of Wical, Beall et al. and Sanu et al., as modified, discloses the claimed invention, wherein the selected categories and selected key phrases are displayed similarly (Wical col.16, line 59 through col.17, line 19).

As per claims 5, 19, and 35, the combination of Ron Weiss Beall et al. and Sanu et al., as modified, discloses the claimed invention, wherein the selected categories are displayed separately from selected key phrases (See Beall et al. col.6, lines 26-46).

As per claims 6, 20, and 36, the combination of Wical, Beall et al. and Sanu et al., as modified, teaches the claimed invention, further including that step of starting a new query when a user activates one of said displayed categories and key phrases (See Beall et al. col.7, lines 25-41).

As per claims 7, 21, and 37, the combination of Wical, Beall et al., and Sanu et al., as modified, teaches the claimed invention, wherein the step of activating includes excluding from the said query of the user a displayed category or key phrases (See Wical col.13, lines 8-23; col.16, lines 5-11).

As per claims 8, 22, and 38, the combination of Wical, Beall et al. and Sanu et al., as modified, teaches the claimed invention, wherein the step of activating includes refining the query of the user to said category or key phrase (See Beall et al. col.6, lines 47-58).

As per claims 9, 23, and 39, the combination of Wical, Beall et al. and Sanu et al., as modified, teaches the claimed invention, further including displaying to the user a list of entries returned by the query (See Beall et al. col.6, lines 26-46).

. As per claims 10, 24, and 40, the combination of Wical, Beall et al., and Sanu et al., as modified, teaches the claimed invention, further including displaying in said list a category to which at least an entry of said list is mapped (See Wical Fig.7 in conjunction with step 520, and col.18, lines 33-67).

As per claims 11, 25, 41, the combination of Wical, Beall et al. and Sanu et al., as modified, teaches the claimed invention, further including displaying the entries included in a category when the user selects said category in said list (See Beall et al. Figs 3 and 4).

As per claims 12, 26, and 42, the combination of Wical, Beall et al. and Sanu et al., as modified, teaches the claimed invention, further including ranking the entries included in said category before they are displayed (See Beall et al. col.5, lines 20-24, line 64 through col.6, line 3).

As per claim 13, the combination of Wical, Beall et al. and Sanu et al., as modified, teaches the claimed invention, wherein categories are hierarchically organized, and wherein the step of displaying includes displaying categories of different hierarchical levels (See Wical col.2, lines 54-67; Figs.8A, 8B, 8C, col.3, lines 36-42; col.5, lines 42-63).

As per claims 14 and 27, the combination of Wical, Beall et al. and Sanu et al., as modified, teaches the claimed invention, wherein a category is formed of a set of at least two attributes (See Wical Fig.13, and col.27, lines 15-34).

As per claims 29 and 30, the combination of Wical, Beall et al. and Sanu et al., as modified, teaches the claimed invention, wherein the search server is a HTTP server; wherein the entries are textual entries and the database includes an inverted index, said categories being entries of said inverted index (See Wical col.24, line 56 through col.25, line 6).

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Other Prior Art Made Of Record

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications will not be supplied with Office actions. Examiners advises the Applicant that the cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are available for download via the Office's PAIR. As an alternate source, all U.S.

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patents and patent application publications are available on the USPTO web site

(www.uspto.gov), from the Office of Public Records and from commercial sources. For the use of the Office's PAIR system, Applicants may refer to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html> or 1-866-217-9197.

Points Of Contact

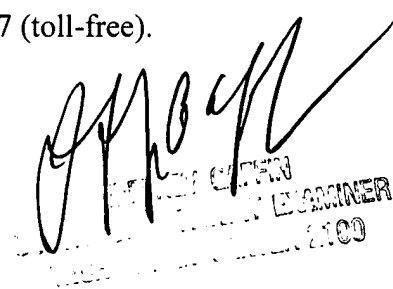
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacques Veillard whose telephone number is (571) 272-4086. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Fri. from 9 AM to 4:30 PM, alt. Fri. off..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on (571) 272- 4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

J.V
Jacques Veillard
Patent Examiner TC 2100

February 3, 2006



Official stamp: JACQUES VEILLARD, EXAMINER, TC 2100, dated FEB 03 2006.